

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-32, 34-106, 110-112, 116-124, 148, 209, 211, 212 and 214 - 229 are pending. Claims 1, 75, 82-83, 98-102 and 212 were amended. Claims 214-229 are new. Claims 33, 107 - 109, 113 - 115, 125 - 147, 149 - 208, 210 and 213 were cancelled.

Claims 212 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as including non-enabled subject matter. Although applicant disagrees with the rejection, in order to further the application towards allowance, applicant amended the claims following the text on page 2, lines 13-18, such that the claimed range is indisputably enabled.

Claims 1-4, 6-16, 19-24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34-44, 46, 48, 51-64, 66, 68, 70, 78, 80, 81, 84-86, 89-95, 98-106, 110-115, 121-125 and 209-213 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or unpatentable over, Pishardi (US 5,693,100).

Claims 17, 18 and 119 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pishardi (US 5,693,100) in view of Pishardi (US 5,123,926).

Claims 116-118 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pishardi (US 5,693,100) in view of Stubstad (US 3,867,728).

Claims 5, 25, 26, 29, 32, 33, 45, 47, 49, 50, 65, 67, 69, 71-77, 79, 82, 83, 87, 88, 96, 97, 120 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant amended claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 33, which was indicated as being allowable. Claim 33 was hence cancelled. The dependent claims are allowable at least because the Independent base claim is allowable.

Applicant notes that claims 98-102 were amended, following the Examiner's suggestion, to add the word "only", so that they cover extensions that only deform under the stated pressures. Claims 82 and 83 were amended to correct a minor typographical error.

In addition, new independent claims 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 224, 225, 228 and 229 present in independent form the limitations of claims 45, 49, 50, 65, 67, 69, 73, 87, 79, 82, 120 and 5, respectively. New dependent claims 223 and 226 repeat the limitations of allowed claims 88 and 83, respectively, depending on new base claims 222 and 225, respectively.

New independent claim 220 presents the limitations of allowed claims 71 and 72 in the alternative. New independent claim 227 presents the limitations of allowed claims 96 and 97 in the alternative.

Claim 75 which was indicated as being allowable was converted into independent form.

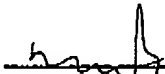
Claims 125 and all its dependent claims were cancelled, in order to further the present application towards allowance.

Pursuant to the Examiner's request, following are all copending applications that set forth similar subject matter to the present claims. US Application No. 09/890,318, US Application No. 10/182,352, US Application No. 09/890,320 and US Application No. 10/628,499.

Applicants further point out that a PTO-1449 form was filed on January 6, 2005 and on March 29, 2005, together with a copy of the cited art. The forms were never received in return initialed by the Examiner. Applicants are resubmitting the forms and respectfully request that the references listed thereon be initialed by the Examiner. Applicants assume that the art has already been considered by the Examiner in accordance with MPEP 609.

In view of the above remarks, applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the prior art. If the Examiner does not agree regarding one or more of the claims, but is of the opinion that a telephone conversation may forward the present application toward allowance, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned at 1 (877) 428-5468. Please note that this is a direct *toll free* number in the US that is answered in the undersigned's Israel office. Israel is 7 hours ahead of Washington. Our normal work week is Sunday through Thursday.

Respectfully submitted,
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